WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE WEDNESDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 2006*

Dumping of electronic waste

†*1. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the developed countries are turning India into a dumping ground for electronic waste due to paradoxical situation prevailing in the EXIM policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated a policy for brining uniformity in paradoxical laws; and

(d) if so, the detials thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per para 2.17 of Foreign Trade Policy, all second hand goods except second hand capital goods are restricted for imports. Import of second hand capital goods including refurbished/reconditioned spares shall be allowed freely. However, second hand personal computers/laptops and photocopier machines are restricted for imports and only allowed against licence issued in this behalf. Similarly, reconditioned goods including reconditioned electronic goods are also restricted for imports.

Further, as per Note 1a of Chapter 1A to ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2004-09, import of hazardous waste into India shall be subject to provisions of Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003. ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items indicates item-wise export/import policy and published under Para 2.1 of Foreign Trade Policy. Waste electrical and electronic assemblies/

* The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, the 22nd November, 2006 was adjourned. Answers to Questions put down in lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, the 23rd November, 2006.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

scraps are covered in Schedule 3 of these Rules, which are applicable for regulating the import and export of hazardous waste. Such wastes are only permitted for direct use and not for recycling or final disposal.

Impact of tax structure on the industries

*2. SHRI T.T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been done to assess the impact of tax structure during the recent past on the industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that majority industries disfavour the current taxation system for its complicated nature; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to redress the grievances of industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Industry and trade associations interact with the Government from time to time. They highlight the structural, procedural and other anomalies in the tax laws. The Government reviews the tax laws and and their attendant pocedures on a continuous basis and carries out amendments, wherever necessary. The Government's decisions are reflected in the Finance Bill every year.

Increase in the number of malls

†*3. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of malls which were only 30 in 2003 in megapolises in the country are reported to be 220 by 2007;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.